

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



PARISH Masses

Weekend:

Saturday 7:00pm Vigil
Sunday 9:00am
Sunday 10:30am

Weekday:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6.30pm Adoration
7:00pm Mass & Confession
(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10am to 11am
Adoration & Confession
(Reconciliation)

**Father Shansana is away from the 4th of January to the 25th January 2023.
For anything urgent contact
Fr Hilarion on 0478 909 541.**

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays 7:00am
Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana for the following:

BAPTISMS

RECONCILIATION

FOR THE SICK

MARRIAGES

FUNERALS

Fr Shansana: 0437 884 233

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

17 & 18 DECEMBER 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

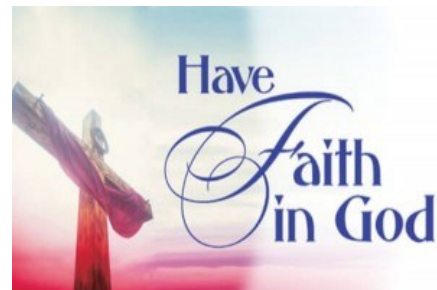
Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

REFLECTION: LIVING IN FAITH

Sunday's Gospel, tells us how Mary and Joseph fulfilled the Lord's mission for them. They were chosen by the Lord for this task and they showed amazing faith in following the Lord's plan. (Matthew 1:18-24)

- **How strong is my faith?**
- **Do I trust in the Lord and follow His way and plan for me?**
- **Would I also fully entrust my purpose to the Lord, like Mary and Joseph did?**
- **Do I do what is easy for me or do what God would want me to do?**



Dear Lord,
Help me grow my faith in you like Mary and Joseph did, accepting and following your plans. Help me trust in you and follow your ways and plans you have for my life. I completely entrust my purpose to You even if it may be uncomfortable for me. Amen.

First Reading**Isaiah 7:10-14 (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Emmanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

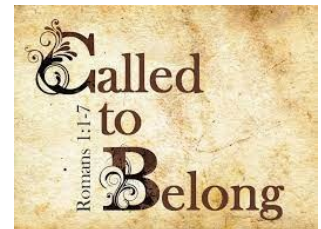
The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm:****R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.****Second Reading****Romans 1:1-7 (JB)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL**Matthew 1:18-24 (JB)**

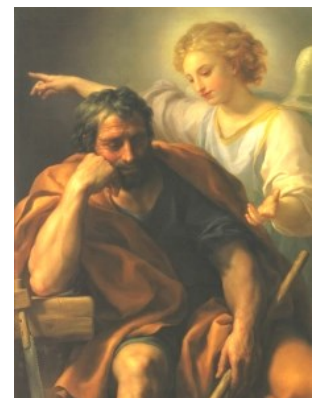
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION

4th Sunday of Advent, December 18

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm 24:1-6

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18:24

When Joseph awoke, he . . . took his wife into his home. (Matthew 1:24)

Joseph was a "righteous man," a faithful Jew who knew the history of his people. (Matthew 1:19). He knew that God had miraculously freed the Israelites from slavery and had rescued them time and again over the centuries. He knew the many signs that God had performed and the many battles he had won for them.

So when an angel told Joseph that it was through the Holy Spirit that his wife, Mary, had conceived a child, he must have recalled the many great things God had done in the past. If God could do all that, then surely this was possible as well.

Joseph was able to trust because he believed in God's power and goodness. Though he probably considered himself an ordinary man, Joseph knew that God could act just as marvelously in his own life as he had in the lives of his forefathers. That helped him believe that God had brought him and Mary together for a special purpose, one that would unfold day by day. So he agreed take Mary into his home and prepare to be a father to her child.

Trust: this is our call as well. It's not easy, especially when there is no angel or dream to guide us! But unlike Joseph, we know the purpose behind God's great plan for us: Jesus, God incarnate, died and rose from the dead so that he could give us new life.

This knowledge can be our strong foundation when we are tempted to doubt. When we are walking in the dark, when we don't see a way forward or a way out, we can choose to believe that God will find a way for us. He has a good plan for us, and he will carry it out in his own perfect time. And when our trust is flagging, let's remember Joseph, the righteous man whose trust in God helped bring salvation to the world.

"St. Joseph, pray for me to trust in God as you did."

(Source: Word Among Us India Dec22-Jan23 Pg 16)

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 19 Readings: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25. Lk 1:5-25.
R: Fill me with your praise and I will sing your glory!

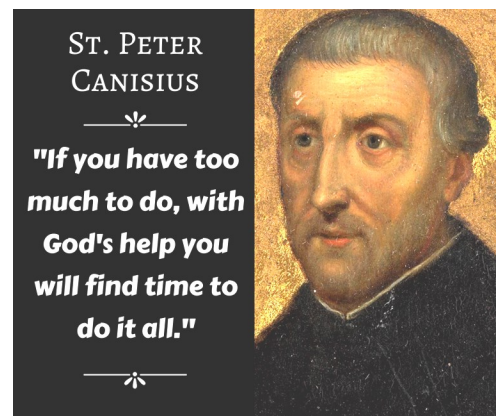
Tuesday 20 Readings: Is 7:10-14. Lk 1:26-38.
R: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Wednesday 21 Song 2:8-14 or Zeph 3:14-18. Lk 1:39-45.
R: Cry out with joy in the Lord, you holy ones; sing a new song to him.
St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor.

Thursday 22 Readings: 1 Sam 1:24-28. Lk 1:46-56.
R: My heart rejoices in the Lord, my saviour.

Friday 23 Readings: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24. Lk 1:57-66.
R: Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.
St John of Kanty, priest.

Saturday 24 Readings: Gen 49:2, 8-10. Mt 1:1-17.
R: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

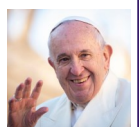


Source: Ordo 2022

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2022

VOLUNTEER AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation. Amen.



THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT
Chapter 4
To prefer nothing to the love of Christ.

PARISH FUNDS

Your support as always is much appreciated. For those wanting to make payments directly to our bank account here are the details:

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:
BSB: 062 784 Acct: 100002141
Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:
CBA—Catholic Development Fund

MEMORIAL MASS

You are all invited to the Memorial Mass for

Emanuele Monardo

10:30am on Sunday 18th December 2022

Here at St Benedict's Church, Arcadia

May baby Jesus and Mother Mary bless you all.

Sincerely, Teresa Monardo & Family."



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia:
ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church.

Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid our brothers and sisters who are suffering so deeply in Syria and Lebanon through our Christmas appeal **Sharing Hope with Christians in Syria and Lebanon this Christmas**. The support we are pledging to them is very much emergency relief to sustain the Christian population in hope. The projects we are supporting are projects such as medical aid, community help and gifts for children in Lebanon, as well as support for lay faithful and accommodation for families in Syria.

It is only with your help that ACN can support Christians in Lebanon and Syria this Christmas!

To watch videos and read stories of the projects we are supporting visit www.aidtochurch.org/christmas2022 or scan the Qr code.



PIETY & CAKE STALL

Piety and cakes stall will be on this weekend weekend 17th & 18th December only. At all the masses.

PIETY GIFTS
GINGER BREAD: HOUSES, TREES & TRAINS
COOKIES
CAKES

All proceeds goes to the parish fundraising.



Special thanks to Rosie Sakkal, Mary & Hannah Abood, Delel Touma, Teresa Gambino, Sister Wendy and Father David, for all their help with the piety stall. I would like to thank all our beautiful parishioners who keep supporting the piety/cake stalls and all the Priests for their support in letting me run the stalls.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

God bless you all! From Lila Bacha & Family

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

It's that time of year again when we reach out to our generous community to help the marginalised in our area to have a happier Christmas. We are looking for donations in the envelopes and also **Christmas hamper items, food and toiletries**. Please leave hamper donations in the baskets at both entry doors.

FATHER SHANSANA AWAY

Father Shansana is away from the 4th of January to the 25th January. For anything urgent contact Fr Hilarion on 0478 909 541.

In Our Parish

We welcome into God's family, all who were recently baptised.

We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially *Brother Mario and Koana Zouein (Rita Sarkis' mum)*.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, may they Rest in Peace.



PARISH FUNDRAISER

FINAL WEEKEND!

Raffle tickets are available for fundraising for the parish.

\$5 per ticket: iPad, blowdryer & hampers prizes
\$50 per ticket: Calf prize

Drawn Sunday 18th December 2022.
AFTER THE 9AM MASS

To purchase tickets you can use the Tap'N'Go or cash.
Tickets are available from:
Lila, Robin, Rosie, Nerida, Mary A, and Paula (parish office).

Please help support our beautiful parish.
Prizes include:

- A Calf donated by the Monastery
- Apple IPAD
- Blow-dryer and hair care package
- Gift Hampers

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

PARISH:

CHRISTMAS EVE Saturday Vigil

Saturday 24th Dec 2022: 7pm
11.30pm (Midnight Mass)



CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 25th Dec 2022: 9am & 10.30am (Latin)

FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY

Friday 30th Dec 2022: 7pm

NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL

Saturday 31st Dec 2022: 7pm



NEW YEAR'S DAY

Feast Mary the Holy Mother of God

Sunday 1st Jan 2023: 9am & 10.30am
4.30pm (Latin Mass)

EPIPHANY VIGIL

Saturday 7th Jan 2023: 7pm

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sunday 8th Jan 2023: 9am & 10.30am
4.30pm (Latin Mass)

FEAST BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Monday 9th Jan 2023: 9.30am

MONASTERY:

Daily as usual 7am

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.
Everyone welcome.
For more details call Angela Egiziano.
Ph: 9653 2312.



GATECHIST NEWS

Wishing everyone a safe and peaceful Christmas filled with God's blessings and love, may you have the opportunity to share Christmas with family and friends.

The CCD has prepared a lovely Advent and Christmas message from the Catholic SRE teachers to all families. Please go to the link or website below to access a variety of craft and cooking activities as well as links to Advent and Christmas songs, family prayers and more.

[Advent and Christmas Gift from Catholic Scripture Teachers](#)

(https://issuu.com/bbcatholic/docs/my_catholic_advent_and_christmas_2022_ccress)

If you are planning for next year and have an hour free on Wednesdays or Fridays during school term and are interested in finding out more about sharing your faith with young people, you are very welcome to either email me, talk to Fr Shansana or call the parish office. There are vacancies for Catechists (Scripture teachers) available for next year.

God bless,
Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist Coordinator



THANK YOU

Thank you to the volunteers who put up the Advent Wreath, the Christmas tree and the Nativity. Your help is always appreciated!

Also a big thank you to the volunteers behind the scenes, washing the purifiers and altar cloths every week. Cleaning, tidying, adding extra flowers to Our Lady. Every little bit helps and this is what makes us a beautiful community!

CHRISTMAS ROSTER



CHRISTMAS BLANK ROSTER DISPLAYED ON SACRISTY WINDOW.

PLEASE HELP BY ADDING YOUR NAME.

CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every

Friday nights: after 7pm Mass

Wednesday mornings: after 9.30am Mass.

Everyone welcome. **Come and meet new people.**

For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

(Last meeting of the year Wednesday 21/12/2022. Recommence Wednesday 4/1/2023).



CATHOLIC CARE



It's true! CatholicCare is here to help and offers a range of services for people in need including emergency relief, financial supports, homelessness and housing assistance, domestic violence support, counselling supports including financial counselling, disability and seniors supports and more. We have a flyer specifically for parishes here <https://tinyurl.com/bd54c5mb>. Call us today on 1800 324 924 or visit www.catholiccareddb.org.au for more information.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE



Consider purchasing Christmas gifts from Aid to the Church in Need, and support suffering and persecuted Christians around the world. Gifts include nativity scenes, Christmas ornaments, mini-statues, rosary beads and more.

Access the online store at: <https://thatcatholicshop.com/>

ADVENT PRAYER

*My little Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You for this Advent season.
Please help me to understand all that You have done for me.
Your loving mother held You in her heart and brought You into this world. Help me to do the same.
My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent, as my King and my God.
Draw me close to You and help me to see my sins so that I can change the things that You want me to change.
Mother Mary, pray for me this Advent so that I may do all that God wants me to do.
You said "Yes" to all that God asked of you. Please pray for me that I may do the same.*



*Come, Lord Jesus,
Come, Lord Jesus,
Come, Lord Jesus, come!
I love You, Jesus.*

Amen.



Saint John of Kanty (Cantius), Priest

c. 1390-1473

Feast Day: December 23

Patron Saint of Poland and Lithuania

Humility, austerity, work, and intelligence unite in one man



Conquering generals returning home from the rim of the Empire were awarded triumphal parades through Rome's crowded masses. The booty of war entered the city first on carts—gold plate, silver goblets, piles of aromatic spices—then came the exotic animals, the caged prisoners of war, and row after row of legionaries. Finally, the victorious general split the crowd in a chariot pulled by two white horses. Slaves waving huge plumes fanned the emperor while another slave stood behind him, continually whispering in his ear: "Thus passes the glory of the world" or "Remember you are a mere mortal." Tertullian, a North African Christian, specifically cites this triumphal custom: "...amid the honours of a triumph, (the emperor) sits on that lofty chariot, and he is reminded that he is only human. A voice at his back keeps whispering in his ear, 'Look behind thee; remember thou art but a man'" (*Apologies* Chpt. 33).

Today's saint needed no such professional whisperers. Nature spoke loudly into one ear and Christ into the other, reminding him of life's fleeting nature, that the "here and now" must one day cede to the "there and then." John of Kanty (or John Cantius) was impressively unimpressed with all that the world had to offer. Saint John's prodigious intellectual gifts could have garnished his life with a fair share of the world's riches, if he had desired them. But the only glory Saint John sought was knowledge of God, the hard floor he slept on every night, and the hunger that seasoned what little food he ate. Saint John was a gifted student at Poland's University of Krakow, who after priestly ordination became a professor of philosophy, theology, and Scripture there. Apart from a few year's interlude serving in a parish, he spent all of his adult life as a professor.

John gave to the poor until he deprived himself of life's necessities. When he walked on pilgrimage to Rome, he carried his meager sack on his own back. His cassock was threadbare, he did not eat meat, and his personal sweetness and patience made his impressive theological knowledge even more impactful. He dismissed the concerns of friends that his punishing austerities would damage his health by invoking the example of Egypt's long-lived desert fathers, whose gaunt frames were draped in skin as cracked and dry as the desert itself. John's virtuous life proves the mutually reinforcing character of poverty and celibacy. Once a priest abandons his vow of poverty or simplicity and begins leading a bourgeoisie life of comfort, he risks abandoning his vow of celibacy too. He starts to imperceptibly drift downriver from where he first entered the stream of his vocation, until it's too late, and he is swept over the falls into the sea of mere bachelorhood.

From an external perspective, Saint John lived a mundane, predictable existence. It is in keeping with his personal history that he is one of the most obscure saints on the Church's liturgical calendar. His life was like a flat plain, without great events jutting up like mountains from the even, everyday terrain. Saint John was a humble scholar who sought no legacy through wealth, fame, property, marriage, or offspring. Such goods were arrows that glanced off his spiritual armor. He did not want to cheat death by colluding with the desires of his fallen nature. His mind, his body, and his life would serve no one and nothing except Christ and His Church. Such a serious, mortified life is not for the many, but a few are indeed called to live it. After his death, John's holiness and academic excellence were so highly esteemed that his doctoral gown was long placed on the shoulders of the University of Krakow's doctoral graduates to ceremoniously vest them. On a pilgrimage to Krakow in 1997, Saint John's countryman Pope Saint John Paul II prayed at his tomb, noting that his fellow Krakovian's life exemplified what emerges when "knowledge and wisdom seek a covenant with holiness."

Saint John of Kanty, we ask your heavenly intercession to infuse the virtues of poverty, chastity, and perseverance in all students of higher education, that they may be diligent in furthering their knowledge of all things sacred and mundane for God's glory and their own sanctification. Amen.


Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass

**CHRISTMAS BLANK ROSTER DISPLAYED ON SACRISTY WINDOW
PLEASE HELP BY ADDING YOUR NAME**

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

17/12/22 to 18/12/22

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	Paul E
Reader1	Sr Carol T	Ann L	Lorna B
Reader2	Margaret B	Nigel M	Paula E
Prayers	Maria G	Roza N	Matt M
TV		Mary A	Tyrone E
Music		Mark Q	Karina S
Music		Helen F	Noelle T
Music		Theresa N	John T
Music		Marisa Q	
Morning Tea		Teresa G	
 FLOWERS	NO ALTAR FLOWERS DURING ADVENT	Gabe Wall to do flowers on the 24th of December.	

Parish Roster

Thank You!

**Thank you to all our volunteers, we really appreciate it!
If anyone would like to join our parish roster please contact the
parish.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

SAFEGUARDING MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of St Benedict's Parish are committed to fostering a community of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

If you have a concern for the safety and wellbeing of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, tell someone who can help. These people in our parish can help:

Fr Shansana 0437 884 233 - Lorraine Dailey 0416 081 882 - Office for Safeguarding 8379 1605.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm

**(Closed from 26th December, reopens 13th January.
During the month of January only open Fridays from the 13th.
For anything urgent please contact Fr Hilarion 0478 909 541).**

**Parish Office: 02 9653 2312
Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com**

**Parish Administrator: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB
Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com
After hours: 0437 884 233**

**Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159
Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159**

**Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia
Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia**

MONASTERY: 9653 1159



**BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations:
BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141
Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:
CBA—Catholic Development Fund**

**For all parish Occupational Health & Safety
and Safeguarding Children matters Contact:
Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.**